AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An external additive for a toner for electrophotography comprising:

oxide fine particles which contain silicon, wherein the oxide fine particles have a primary particle diameter of ~~30 nm to 300 nm~~ 50 nm to 170 nm in number average, a standard deviation σ of a particle size distribution of the primary particle diameter satisfies a relation of: $R/4 \leq \sigma \leq R$, in which the R expresses the primary particle diameter, the oxide fine particles are substantially spherical having a circularity SF1 of 100 to 130 and a circularity SF2 of 100 to 125, the circularity SF1 is defined as an equation (1) and the circularity SF2 is defined as an equation (2);

$SF1=(L^2/A) \times (\pi/4) \times 100$ equation (1)

$SF2=(P^2/A) \times (1/4\pi) \times 100$ equation (2)

wherein "L" expresses the absolute maximum length of the oxide fine particles; "A" expresses a projected area of the oxide fine particles; and "P" expresses a maximum perimeter of the oxide fine particles.

Claim 2 (Canceled):

Claim 3 (Original): The external additive for a toner for electrophotography according to claim 1, wherein the standard deviation σ of the particle size distribution of the primary particle diameter satisfies a relation of: $R/3 \leq \sigma \leq 2R/3$, in which the R expresses the primary particle diameter.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The external additive for a toner for electrophotography according to claim 1, wherein the oxide fine particles have the circularity SF1 of 100 to 125 and the circularity SF2 of 100 to 120.

Claim 5 (Original): The external additive for a toner for electrophotography according to claim 1, wherein the oxide fine particles further comprises a metal element.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The external additive for a toner for electrophotography according to claim 5, comprising Si and wherein the metal element is at least one selected from Mg, Ca, Ba, Al, Ti, V, Sr, Zr, Sn, Zn, Ga, Ge, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, and Cu.

Claim 7 (Original): The external additive for a toner for electrophotography according to claim 5, wherein the metal element is a titanium element.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The external additive for a toner for electrophotography according to claim 5, wherein the metal element, Si element, and O element of the oxide fine particles are evenly dispersed between a surface part and an inside part of the oxide fine particles.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The external additive for a toner for electrophotography according to claim 1, wherein a surface of the oxide fine particles are treated with an organosilicon compound coupling agent.

Claim 10 (Original): The external additive for a toner for electrophotography according to claim 1, wherein the oxide fine particles are hydrophobic oxide fine particles having a $R^1{}_3SiO_{1/2}$ unit on a surface thereof, in which the R^1 is an identical or a different monovalent carbon hydrogen group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms.

Claim 11 (Original): The external additive for a toner for electrophotography according to claim 1, wherein the oxide fine particles are treated with silicone oil, and a liberation degree of the silicone oil is 10% to 95%.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A toner for electrophotography comprising:

base toner particles which contain a binder resin and a coloring agent; and

an external additive, wherein the base toner particles have a volume average particle diameter of 2 μm to 7 μm, the external additive is mixed with the base toner particle, and the external additive comprises:

oxide fine particles which contain silicon, wherein the oxide fine particles have a primary particle diameter of ~~30 nm to 300 nm~~ 50 nm to 170 nm in number average, a standard deviation σ of a particle size distribution of the primary particle diameter satisfies a relation of: $R/4 \leq \sigma \leq R$, in which the R expresses the primary particle diameter, the oxide fine particles are substantially spherical having a circularity SF1 of 100 to 130 and a circularity SF2 of 100 to 125, the circularity SF1 is defined as an equation (1) and the circularity SF2 is defined as an equation (2);

$SF1=(L^2/A) \times (\pi/4) \times 100$ equation (1)

$SF2=(P^2/A) \times (1/4\ \pi) \times 100$ equation (2)

wherein "L" expresses the absolute maximum length of the oxide fine particles; "A" expresses a projected area of the oxide fine particles; and "P" expresses a maximum perimeter of the oxide fine particles.

Claim 13 (Original): The toner for electrophotography according to claim 12, wherein a content of the external additive is 0.01 part by weight to 20 parts by weight, relative to 100 parts by weight of the toner.

Claim 14 (Original): The toner for electrophotography according to claim 13, wherein a content of the external additive is 0.1 part by weight to 5 parts by weight, relative to 100 parts by weight of the toner.

Claim 15 (Cancelled):

Claim 16 (Original): The toner for electrophotography according to claim 12, wherein the binder resin comprises a polyol resin.

Claim 17 (Original): The toner for electrophotography according to claim 12, wherein the binder resin comprises a polyester resin.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A double-component developer comprising:

a toner for electrophotography; and

a carrier,

wherein the toner comprises:

base toner particles which contain a binder resin and a coloring agent; and

an external additive,

wherein the base toner particles have a volume average particle diameter of 2 μm to 7 μm, the external additive is mixed with the base toner particles, and the external additive comprises:

oxide fine particles which contain silicon, wherein the oxide fine particles have a primary particle diameter of ~~30 nm to 300 nm~~ 50 nm to 170 nm in number average, a standard deviation σ of a particle size distribution of the primary particle diameter satisfies a relation of: $R/4 \leq \sigma \leq R$, in which the R expresses the primary particle diameter, the oxide fine particles are substantially spherical having a circularity SF1 of 100 to 130 and a circularity SF2 of 100 to 125, the circularity SF1 is defined as an equation (1) and the circularity SF2 is defined as an equation (2);

$SF1=(L^2/A) \times (\pi/4) \times 100$ equation (1)

$SF2=(P^2/A) \times (1/4\pi) \times 100$ equation (2)

wherein "L" expresses the absolute maximum length of the oxide fine particles; "A" expresses a projected area of the oxide fine particles; and "P" expresses a maximum perimeter of the oxide fine particles.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn-Currently Amended): An image-forming process comprising the steps of:

charging a latent electrostatic image bearing member;

irradiating light to the latent electrostatic image bearing member so as to form a latent electrostatic image;

supplying a developer onto the latent electrostatic image so as to visualize the latent electrostatic image and to form a toner image;

transferring the toner image onto a recording medium,

wherein the developer comprises a toner for electrophotography, and the toner comprises:

base toner particles which contain a binder resin and a coloring agent; and

an external additive,

wherein the base toner particles have a volume average particle diameter of 2 μm to 7 μm, the external additive is mixed with the base toner particles, and the external additive comprises:

oxide fine particles which contain silicon, wherein the oxide fine particles have a primary particle diameter of ~~30 nm to 300 nm~~ 50 nm to 170 nm in number average, a standard deviation σ of a particle size distribution of the primary particle diameter satisfies a relation of: $R/4 \leq \sigma \leq R$, in which the R expresses the primary particle diameter, the oxide fine particles are substantially spherical having a circularity SF1 of 100 to 130 and a circularity SF2 of 100 to 125, the circularity SF1 is defined as an equation (1) and the circularity SF2 is defined as an equation (2);

$SF1=(L^2/A) \times (\pi/4) \times 100$ equation (1)

$SF2=(P^2/A) \times (1/4\ \pi) \times 100$ equation (2)

wherein "L" expresses the absolute maximum length of the oxide fine particles; "A" expresses a projected area of the oxide fine particles; and "P" expresses a maximum perimeter of the oxide fine particles.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn): The image-forming process according to claim 19, wherein the developer further comprises a carrier.

Claim 21 (Cancelled):